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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



INSURGENT CAMPS AND
STORAGE AREAS,
LAOS ROUTES 92 AND 922
LAOS

R-44/69

MAY 1969

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM

**INSURGENT CAMPS AND
STORAGE AREAS,
LAOS ROUTES 92 AND 922**

MAY 1969

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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INSURGENT CAMPS AND STORAGE AREAS
LAOS ROUTES 92 AND 922

There has been a significant increase in the level of insurgent military activity in the area of Routes 92 and 922 in the Laotian panhandle. Insurgent camps, storage areas, and increased trail usage highlight this activity. In addition, new and reactivated truck parks and an expanded telecommunications network establish the area as being of major importance to the North Vietnamese.

25X1D

Thirteen insurgent camps with a total of at least 125 buildings have been recently identified in the panhandle area. These camps, probably used for rest, recuperation, and storage, are dispersed along well-used trails and often near a telecommunication line. Figure 2 depicts a typical camp in a heavily forested area.

Figure 3 depicts bunkers of the type seen in many places along Route 922, especially in the five main complexes depicted on Figure 1. These are believed to be used primarily for storage. The bunkers usually have reinforced rectangular entrances and appear to be very deep. The entrances are constructed either flush with the ground or door-like into the sides of mounds (Figure 4). When these facilities are subjected to airstrikes, underlying tunnels and caverns are often exposed. Figure 5 shows one area near the Laos-South Vietnam border which has been subjected to airstrikes and is being revamped.

The level of activity is also reflected in increased trail usage, new road construction, road conditions, parking areas, and construction on nearby telecommunications networks. A trail net, generally paralleling and frequently connected to Route 922, has been very active, especially within the last two months. Dispersed huts are located along this network, and personnel, often with full packs, have been observed on several occasions on low-level photography.

A nominal amount of road construction is observed, usually in the form of small bypasses or extended access roads; however, one road in an early stage of construction crosses the border and continues for approximately 4 nautical miles (nm) into South Vietnam. This road passes for a short distance between Laos-South Vietnam (LA-VS) Telecommunications Line 1 and Branch Line 2A.

Laos Route 922, which continues into the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam as Route 548, has been moderately active and usually serviceable during this dry season; it was the southernmost road open during the last monsoon season. Laos Routes 9, 91⁴, and 92, leading into this area from the north, have also been receiving moderate-to-heavy use. Traffic continues to move only at night.

The status of truck parks along the main roads is also indicative of continued vehicle activity. Seven new and 15 reactivated truck parks are observed from a point approximately 5 nm west of the junction of Routes 92 and 922 to the Laos-South Vietnam border. Many of these reactivated parking areas have been expended and some have associated huts or buildings nearby.

The telecommunications network has two main lines in this area. LA-VS Telecommunications Line 1 and Branch Line 2A. Branch Line 1C was added in [REDACTED] Each line has two wires; however, a probable multicircuit cable is also observed on Branch Line 2A.

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This is the first time that NPIC has observed such a concentration of facilities or complexes of this nature along any route in Laos. The combination of developments emphasizes the increase in insurgent military activity that is currently concentrated in the area of Laos Routes 92 and 922. The storage camps and bunkers, connected by these routes to many well-used trails and roads, provide a well-dispersed corridor that allows the option of moving material south on Routes 92 and 96 or east into South Vietnam.

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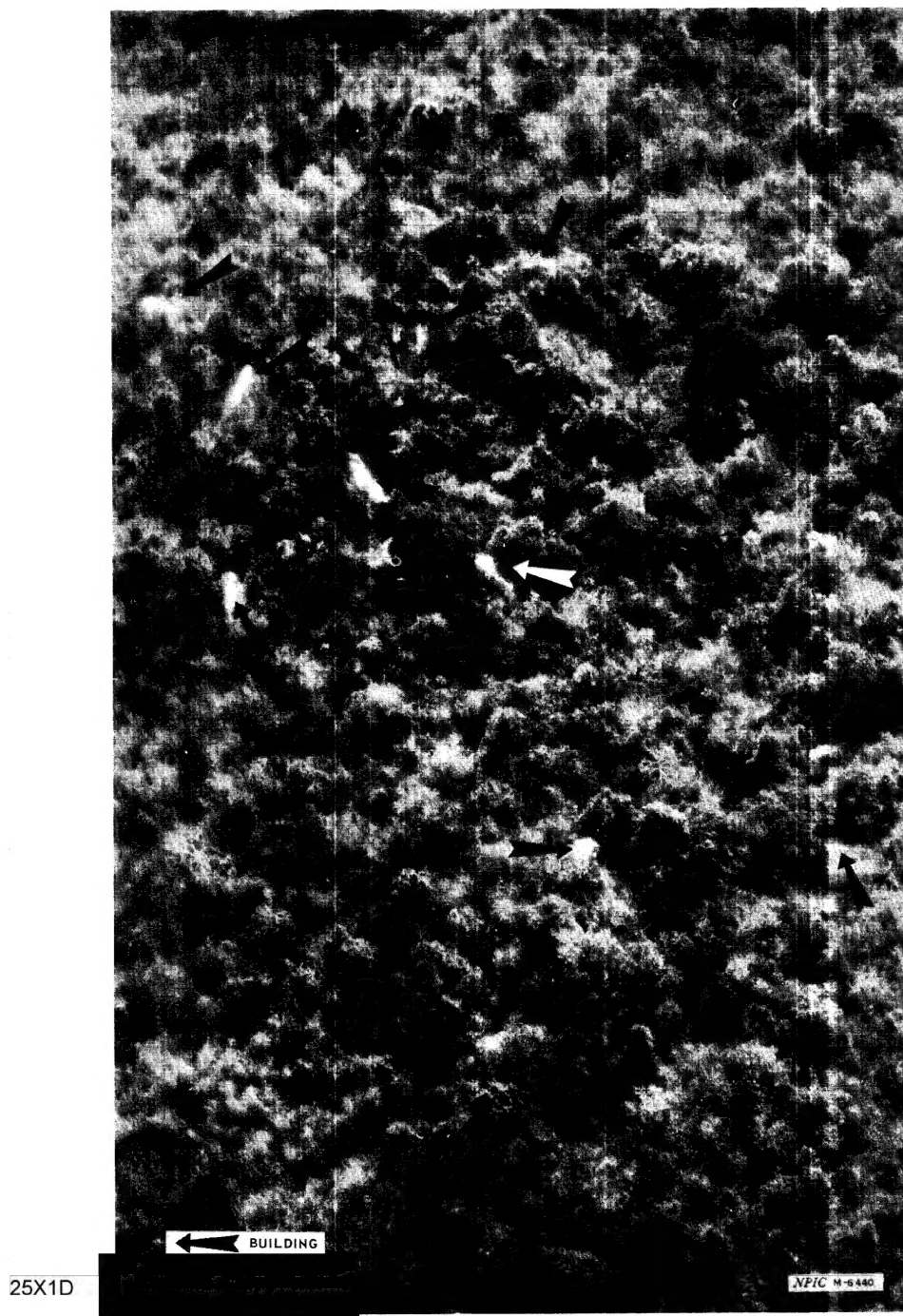


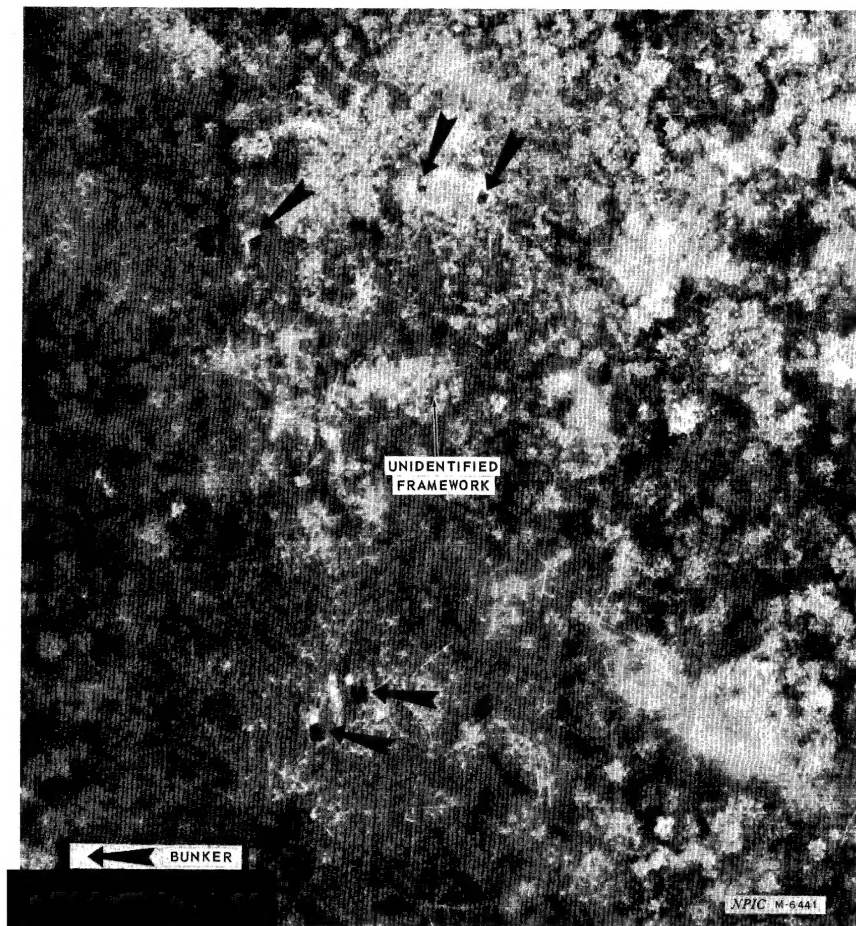
FIGURE 2. TYPICAL INSURGENT CAMP, ROUTE 92 AREA, LAOS

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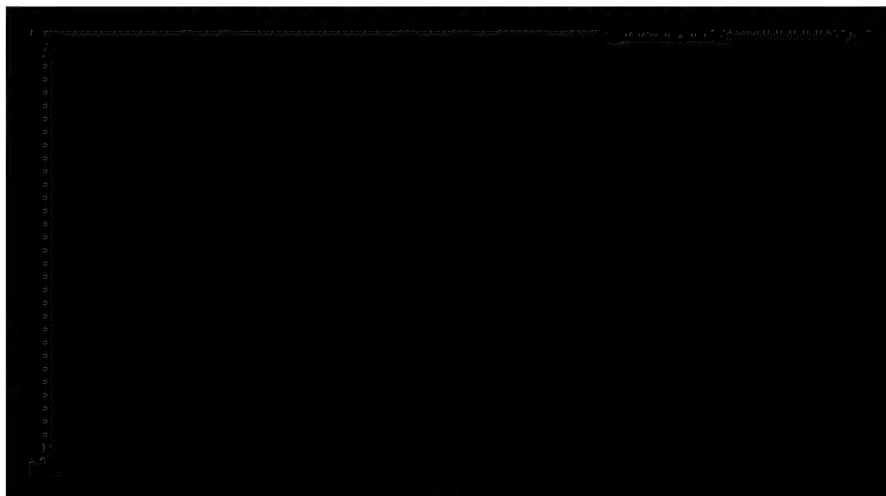
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FIGURE 3. PART OF BUNKER COMPLEX WEST OF ROUTE 92, LAOS



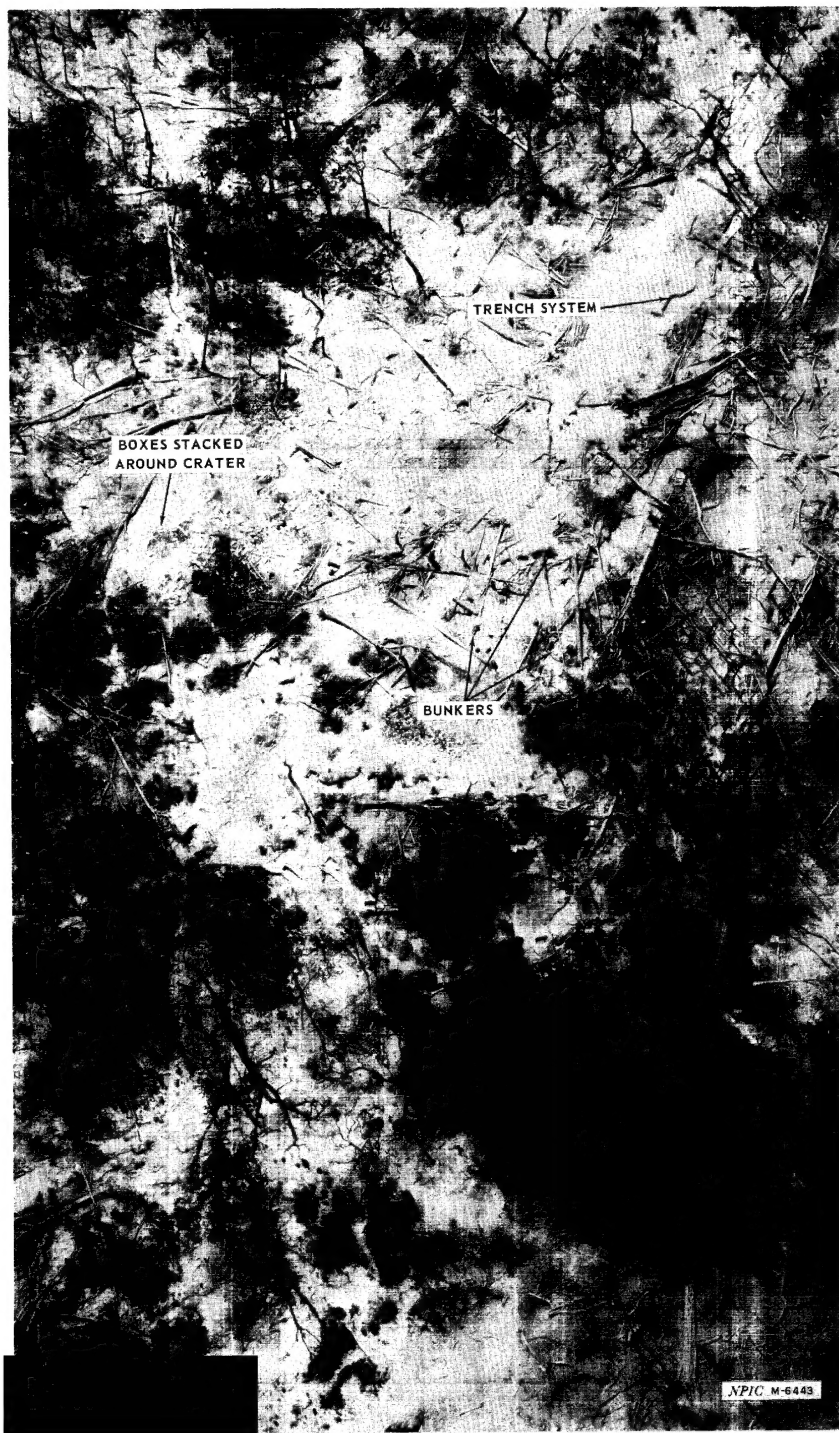
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FIGURE 5. STORAGE AREA BEING REVAMPED, ROUTE 922, LAOS

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